

Serial No. 10/773,572
Amendment dated March 26, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 31, 2008

Docket No. K-0608

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5, 10, 13-18, and 20-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, and 18 are amended, claims 2 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 20-21 are added. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 2, 5, and 13-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The allowable features of claim 2 have been added to independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 19 have been canceled. Accordingly, independent claim 2 should be in condition for allowance along with claim 10, which depends therefrom. Claims 5 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 5 and 18 should be in condition for allowance along with claims 13-17 and 20-21, which depend respectively therefrom.

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The Office Action rejected claims 1, 10, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DuBois et al. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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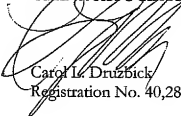
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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